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**HOUSE BILL NO. 950**

Offered January 10, 2018

Prefiled January 9, 2018

*A BILL to amend and reenact § 18.2-56.2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to allowing access to firearms by children; penalty.*

Patron—Lopez

Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That § 18.2-56.2 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

**§ 18.2-56.2. Allowing access to firearms by children; penalty.**

A. It ~~shall be~~ is unlawful for any person to recklessly leave a loaded, unsecured firearm in such a manner as to endanger the life or limb of any child under the age of ~~fourteen~~ 14. Any person violating the provisions of this subsection ~~shall be~~ is guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor.

B. It is unlawful for any person to knowingly authorize a child four years of age or younger to use a firearm or a pneumatic gun under any circumstances. Any person violating the provisions of this subsection is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

C. It ~~shall be~~ is unlawful for any person knowingly to authorize a child five years of age or older but under the age of ~~twelve~~ 12 to use a firearm except when the child is under the supervision of an adult. Any person violating this subsection ~~shall be~~ is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

D. For purposes of this ~~subsection~~ section, "adult" ~~shall mean~~ means a parent, guardian, person standing in loco parentis to the child, or a person ~~twenty-one~~ 21 years of age or ~~over~~ older who has the permission of the parent, guardian, or person standing in loco parentis to supervise the child in the use of a firearm.

INTRODUCED

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